OKAY, KIDS. SEE YOU ALL NEXT WEEK.

STAND UP.

BOW!

冴えない彼女の育てかた

hp

KATOU.

WE HAVE A CIRCLE MEETING TODAY.

ドラゴンコミックスエイジ

「冴えない彼女（ヒロイン）の育てかた」
最新第7巻 絶賛発売中!!!

ファンタジア文庫

「冴えない彼女（ヒロイン）の育てかた」1～9巻
+FD（ファンディスク）+GS（ガールズサイド）①② 絶賛発売中!!!

その40

冴えない彼女の育てかた

Saenai heroine no sodate-kata.

原作——丸戸史明 Fumiaki Maruto
作画——守姫武士 Takeshi Moriki
キャラクター原案——深崎暮人 Kurehito Misaki

AH, TODAY'S...

LET'S GO TO THE AUDIOVISUAL ROOM.

I TOLD YOU LAST TUESDAY, DIDN'T I?

.....

I TOLD YOU TO CONTACT ME BACK IF YOU COULDN'T COME, RIGHT? BUT YOU DIDN'T.

AKI-KUN ...

BUT THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST CIRCLE ACTIVITY OF THIS YEAR.

IT'S PRETTY LATE,

AND SHE KEEPS GLANCING OVER TO ME.

SHE SEEMS TO BE PACKING HER THINGS AT A SLOWER RATE,

AFTER ALL,

I REALIZED THAT WAS KIND OF HARSH OF ME,

BUT IT SEEMS SHE TOOK IT INTO HEART.

.....

WE'RE BORROWING IT FOR A BIT.

EH,

WE'RE GOING TO THE BROAD-CASTING ROOM?

Broadcasting Room

WELL, THEN.

SIT SOMEWHERE OVER THERE.

CLOSE

KATOU...

O-OKAY...

LOCK

A—

AKI-KUN ...?

AH,

SORRY, I GUESS LOCKING THE DOOR WAS UNECC-ESSARY...

BUT THAT FACE YOU MADE WAS KINDA MOE.

THE THINGS WE'RE GOING TO GO OVER IS A BIT TOO ELABORATE,

IT'LL TAKE TOO MANY PAPERS IF I PRINTED IT, SO I DECIDED TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU WITH A PRESENTATION INSTEAD.

THERE'S A REASON WHY I DRAGGED... I MEAN, INVITED YOU TO THIS PLACE.

Doujin Game Proposal (First Version)
Tomoya Aki

AKI-KUN ...?

THIS IS ...

WE'LL START WITH THE TABLE OF CONTENTS.

LET'S BEGIN.

IF WE CAN EXPRESS THINGS LIKE THE HEROINE'S VAGUE ATTITUDE AND EMOTIONAL SWINGS, THOSE REALISMS WILL BECOME A SELLING POINT...

...IN SHORT,

Concept: Love, Friendship, Growth

THE HEART OF THIS CONCEPT IS TO CREATE A 2D HEROINE PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY FALL IN LOVE WITH!

AH, OKAY...

I THINK SPIRIT AND METTLE MEAN THE SAME THING.

O-OF COURSE...

BUT THEN COMES THE SCENARIO WRITER, KASUMI UTAKO WITH HER SPIRIT AND METTLE...

I WANTED TO MAKE A HEROINE THAT MAKES YOUR HEART GO KYUN-KYUN! THAT'S WHAT I WAS AIMING FOR!

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE GAME I DESIGNED IS ABOUT HIGHLIGHTING THE HEROINE'S CHARMS...

NOT TO MENTION KASHIWAGI ERI'S TOUCHES ONLY HIGHLIGHTS AND STRESSES KASUMI UTAKO'S LITERARY STYLE.

BUT NOW IT HAS STRAYED FAR FROM WHAT I ENVISIONED... IT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN PUFF MY CHEST AND BOAST ABOUT ANYMORE.

KASUMI UTAKO COMES WITH HER SPIRIT AND ESSENCE, BLOWING ROMANTIC NARRATIVE INTO THE WORK. AND AS YOU KNOW, THIS MADE THE WORK A BIG SUCCESS...

THAT'S... AMAZING. IN A LOT OF WAYS.

I'LL ABSOLUTELY CRY IF I PLAY "CHERRY BLESSINGS".

BUT I REALIZED THAT IT'S NOT SOMETHING WORTHY TO CRY AT.

YES,

THAT'S WHY, FOR THE NEXT ONE, I WILL BRING BLESSING SOFTWARE BACK TO ITS ROOTS.

NOW IT FEELS LIKE... I'M JUST BEING PULLED AROUND BY THEM.

UM, I WILL BE THE HEROINE AGAIN?

OF COURSE! YOU ARE MY MAIN HEROINE...

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE!

O-OKAY ...

WE WILL CAPTIVATE THE PLAYERS' HEARTS WITH YOUR CHARMS, KATOU!

E-EHHH ...

NO, THIS IS A MAJOR POINT! IN THE END, I'D REALLY LIKE A STORY WITH A GIRL THAT I LIKE, AFTER ALL!

U-UM, I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY...

I WANTED TO TRY USING THE ADVENTURE GENRE AS A BASE. I THINK THAT'S WHAT YOU CAN CALL THE AKI TOMOYA FLAVOR. WHAT DO YOU THINK, KATOU?

AND THIS GAME HAS A COMPLICATED SYSTEM, DOESN'T IT?

N THE FIRST WORK, WE WOU
BE MISUNDERSTOOD RIGH
OFF THE BAT AND GET A BA
REP. BLESSING SOFTWARE
WOULD BE REJECTED FRO
GETTING RECOMMENDATIO
AND ENDORSEMENT, AND W
ILL HAVE TO LOOK FOR NE
STAFF. KASUMI UTAKO AND
KASHIWAGI ERI HAS DONE
HING WRONG, OF COURS
DESIGNED IT SO I WA
O BE RECOMMENDED
I DESIGNED IT, SO
KT KNOW WH

AAH, IT'S ENOUGH.

THAT'S A BIT HARD, THOUGH
UT BECAUSE IT IS HARD, TH
HERE'S MERIT IN TRYING IT! B
T COULD WORSEN THE QUALI
OF CHERRY BLESSINGS... NO
THAT IS WHY A DOUJIN CIRCL
CAN DO IT--NO, ONLY A DOUJI
CIRCLE HAS THE ABILITY TO
O SO! BUT IT'D STILL BE BA
F WE CAN'T SELL IT... WAIT,
E CAN RIDE ON THE FAME
THE PREVIOUS WORK I
WANT TO JUST SELL
HAT'S A GREAT

THIS TIME YOU'RE NOT DELEGATING EVERYTHING TO KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI AND ERIRI.

LET'S GO BACK A FEW STEPS.

Staff (planned)

Planning: Aki Tomoya
Scenario: Kasumi Utako (Main Route)
Aki Tomoya (All Subroutes)
Graphics: Kashiwagi Eri (Main Route)
New Members (pending) (All Subroutes)

WELL, LET'S SAY SHE'S NOT IN THE CONDITION TO BE ABLE AS PRODUCTIVE AS BEFORE. TO COVER THAT, WE WILL USE THIS NEW SYSTEM.

AND ERIRI...

UTAHA-SENPAI WILL BE BUSY WITH HER SCHOOLWORK IN UNIVERSITY AND HER NEW LIGHT NOVEL.

ABOUT THE STAFFING...

THERE'S A LOT AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT, BUT WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO NOW BUT THINK POSITIVELY?

THE REST WILL ALL BE DONE BY YOU... IS THAT POSSIBLE?

I'LL... DO MY BEST.

WILL YOU BE ABLE TO FIND SOMEONE THAT'S AS SKILLED AS ERIRI?

THE TRUTH IS... I DON'T REALLY HAVE THAT MUCH CONFI-DENCE...

WILL YOU REALLY BE OKAY?

THEN IT SAYS THAT YOU WILL BE DOING THE REST, AKI-KUN...

BUT I EXPECT IT TO BE HER MASTER-PIECE!

AND THAT IS WHY WE'LL ONLY ASK UTAHA-SENPAI TO WORK ON ONE HEROINE...

YEAH, I WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE COMMON ROUTES AND THE OTHER HEROINE'S ROUTES!

BUT THAT IS WHY YOUR ROLE IN ALL THIS IS ESSENTIAL!

EH, WHAT?

STILL, THE NUMBER ONE BOTTLENECK HERE IS ME!

I'M DOING THE SCENARIO, AND ALSO DIRECTING, AND ALSO PRODUCING!

!

Planning: Aki Tomoya,
Katou Megumi

AND THAT IS...

THIS!

BUT IT'S SO CRINGY FOR THE HEROINE MODEL TO DESIGN AND MAKE A GAME CENTERED AROUND HER.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

AS SERIOUS AS I CAN BE!

THIS PLAN IS STILL BEING WORKED ON! WE CAN MAKE IT BETTER!

KATOU, LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH!

THAT'S...

IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU FIGHT WITH ME OR THE OTHER CIRCLE MEMBERS!

IF THE GAME LACKS SUBSTANCE OR CONTENT, YOU CAN FIX IT HOWEVER YOU LIKE!

YOU CAN PUNCH THE STAFF IF YOU FEEL LIKE TO!

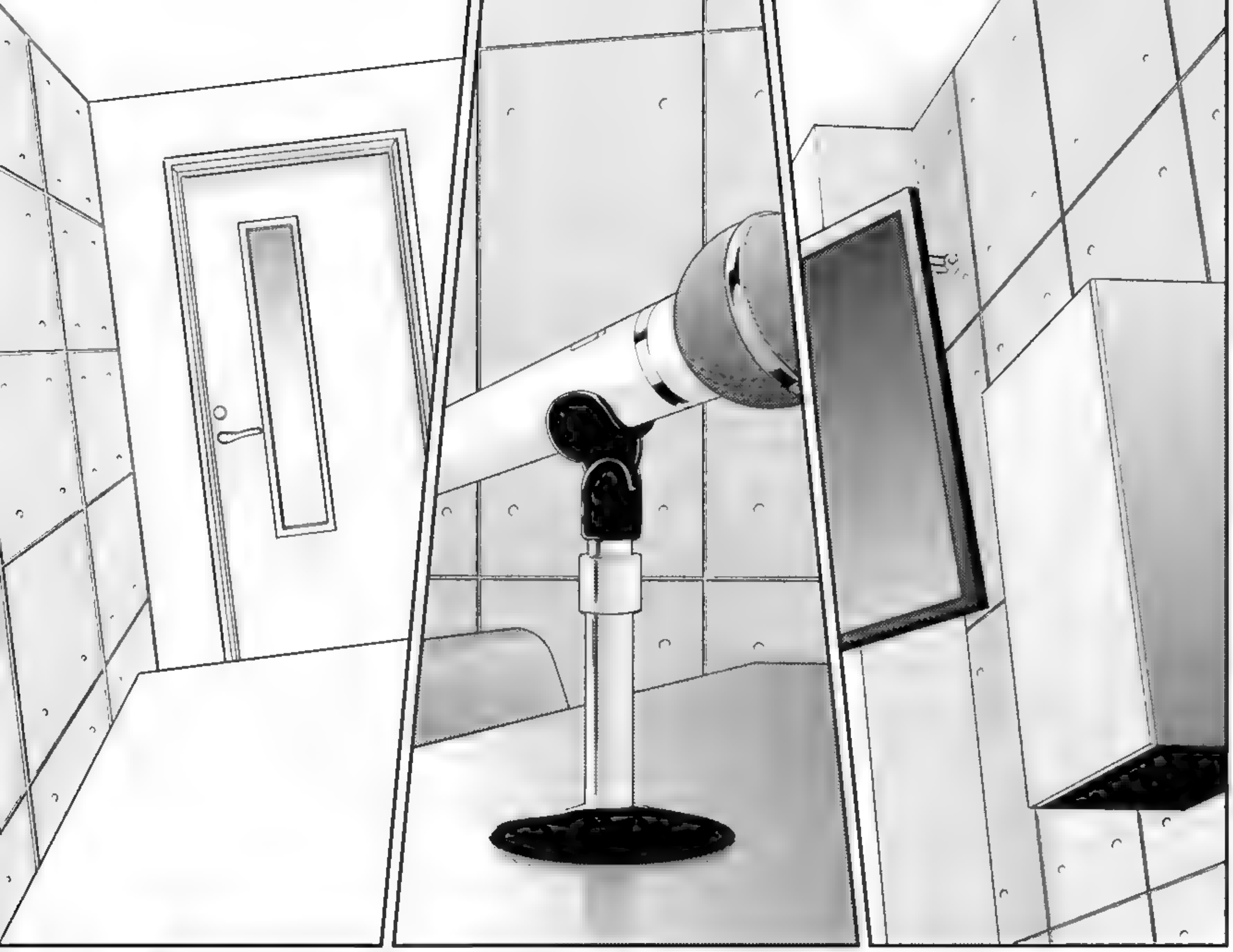
PLEASE GIVE THE CIRCLE MORE OF YOUR OPINIONS! I WILL TAKE FULL RESPONSI-BILITY!

LET'S CARRY THE CIRCLE ON OUR BACKS TOGETHER!

PLEASE, KATOU... MEGUMI...

PLEASE, ONCE AGAIN,

PLEASE BE MY MAIN HEROINE AGAIN!



THERE'S...

SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK.

WHAT IS IT?

IS THAT FINE?

IS IT FINE IF YOU DECIDE THIS WITHOUT HER APPROVAL?

……

HAVE YOU SAID ANYTHING TO ERIRI ABOUT MAKING ME THE MAIN HEROINE?

?

NO, I HAVEN'T.

I…

YOU KNOW, KATOU…

…?

I'M GOING TO BE ASKING YOU SOMETHING NOW, AND IT MIGHT SOUND REALLY WEIRD OR STUPID OR DOWNRIGHT LUNATIC…

AND THAT'S WHY I'LL APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE.

I'M SORRY.

I'M JUST ASKING THIS ON THE VERY OFF CHANCE...

うう……

WERE YOU ANGRY AT ME BECAUSE ERIRI AND I HAS BEEN SO CLOSE AT THAT TIME?

THE SIGHT OF US WALKING TOGETHER WAS IRRITATING SO MUCH THAT YOU CLENCH YOUR FISTS WHEN YOU SEE US... BUT THAT'S JUST ME, RIGHT? THAT'S NOT THE REASON, RIGHT?

.....

THERE'S NO DOUBT, SHE HAS NO FEELINGS FOR ME AT ALL.

WHAT A FLAT RESPONSE ...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, AKI-KUN?

DID YOU REALLY THINK SO?

YOU THOUGHT OF ALL THE THINGS YOU MIGHT'VE DONE TO ME AND THAT'S WHAT YOU THOUGHT?

UM, I MEAN, IT HAPPENS A LOT IN KASUMI UTAHA'S WORKS!

SOMEONE WHO ACTS COLD BUT ACTUALLY... YOU KNOW, THOSE THINGS! OR SOMETHING SIMILAR! THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO ASK YOU OR I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT FOREVER...

WHEN YOU SAY IT THAT WAY, KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI IS... A BIT PAINFUL TO LOOK AT...

Haha...

NOW THIS IS THE REAL DEAL!

THAT'S ONE DOUBT OFF MY MIND.

I'M SORRY.

ONCE AGAIN,

LAST YEAR?

I'M NOT APOLOGIZING FOR THAT. I'M APOLOGIZING FOR WHAT I DID LAST YEAR.

NO.

LET'S JUST PRETEND OUR CONVERSATION HERE NEVER HAPPENED, OKAY?

OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT ANYMORE.

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR

THE REAL REASON WHY YOU WERE ANGRY AT ME.

AH...

I'M SORRY FOR NOT RELYING ON YOU.

I'M SORRY FOR BEING A FAILURE OF A FRIEND.

I'M SORRY FOR NOT TALKING ABOUT IT TO YOU.

I'M SORRY, KATOU.

AND...
THANK YOU.

YOU'VE...

TO BOTH ERIRI AND YOU, I TOOK THE WRONG CHOICE. I'M SORRY.

I'M ALSO SORRY BECAUSE IT TOOK THIS LONG FOR ME TO APOLO-GIZE.

YOU'VE COME TO LIKE BLESSING SOFTWARE, HAVEN'T YOU?

THANK YOU, KATOU...

JUST WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?

W-WHAT... JUST WHAT...

A... AKI-KUN ...

I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!

AND... AGAIN, SORRY.

THANK YOU ...

THANK YOU, KATOU.

I'VE BEEN HOLDING MYSELF BACK ALL THIS TIME...

ERIRI, KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI, AND HYOUDOU-SAN TOO...

AREN'T WE FRIENDS?! AREN'T WE BUDDIES?!

SWITCH

ON

IF WE'RE FRIENDS, THEN WE SHOULDN'T BE KEEPING SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER, RIGHT?

THAT'S... JUST HOW IT IS IN THE INDUSTRY...

THAT DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.

IT'S MORE FUN THAN PLAYING WITH MY REGULAR FRIENDS FOR SOME REASON...

THE CIRCLE WAS MORE FUN THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE...

IT WAS FUN!

SO, THEN.

I'M SORRY. I'M REALLY SORRY.

...AT LEAST UNTIL YOU STIRRED UP TROUBLE,

AKI-KUN.

SHE WAS LIKE SOME DRUNKARD.

LIKE A DRUNK, TROUBLE-SOME GIRL-FRIEND.

KATOU WASN'T FLAT ANYMORE.

W-WELL, I DON'T THINK IT'LL WORK OUT SO SMOOTHLY RIGHT FROM THE START, BUT...

I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN, AKI-KUN. CAN YOU MAKE THIS NEW SYSTEM WORK?

WE TALKED ABOUT IT SOMETIMES,

BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D USE IT AS THE TITLE!

WHAT DOES THIS "BORING GIRLFRIEND (HEROINE)" MEAN?

Title: How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

I-I-IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, WE CAN CHANGE IT!

AND I MYSELF CAN FEEL HER CHARMS... THAT'S BAD.

I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!

YOU SOUND LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE A PLAN.

THE KATOU RIGHT NOW IS VERY FRESH, AND VERY CURIOUS...

AND SO...

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY MAKING ME, AN AMATEUR, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF AN OTAKU CIRCLE?

NOT TO MENTION THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE FAR TOO AMAZING THAN ME.

I'M STILL TALKING WITH HER.

BUT IN MY HOUSE!

AS FAR AS I KNOW, HAVING A HIGH POSITION BEHIND-THE-SCENES DOESN'T REALLY GARNER YOU RESPECT OR ANYTHING.

I'LL ADMIT, THAT'S MY OWN FAULT.

Hah...

LET'S CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION IN MY ROOM.

WAIT, NO! IT'S TIME TO GO HOME!

OKAY! LET'S GO TO YOUR HOUSE!

!!

THE THOUGHT OF IT MAKES ME WANT TO KILL MYSELF, SO LET'S STOP THERE.

I THINK I DISCLOSED TOO MUCH...

AND OF COURSE, SHE TOOK A BATH HERE.

SO YOU REALLY DO LIKE ERIRI, AKI-KUN.

BUT I LIKE YOU TOO, KATOU.

AND TODAY, I FELL FOR YOU EVEN MORE!

WOW...

I NEVER THOUGHT ERIRI COULD SAY SOMETHING SO CUTE IN FRONT OF YOU, AKI-KUN...

YES, SURE, SURE. I KNOW YOU DO, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT.

U-UGH...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO FEEL ABOUT THAT.

...HEARING THOSE WORDS FROM YOUR OWN MOUTH GETS ME GOOSEBUMPS, AKI-KUN.

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

YEAH, WELL, WE WERE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS AND SHE WAS SPECIAL TO ME, THAT'S FOR SURE.

ERIRI WAS YOUR *FIRST* LOVE.

AH, I REMEMBER YOU SAID THAT

WHAT HAPPENED WITH KATOU TODAY?

IT SOMEHOW BECAME A LOVE CONSULTATION SESSION FOR ME.

AH, THE MIRROR'S ON THE... AH, YOU KNOW ANYWAY.

I'M GOING TO DRY MY HAIR.

YOU'RE SO RANDOM TODAY.

WILL YOU CONFESS TO HER?

YEAH.

KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI IS GRADUATING.

DO YOU KNOW THAT IT'S A SIDE OF HER THAT SHE ONLY SHOWS TO YOU?

BUT YOU ADMIRE HER, RIGHT?

HOW CAN I NOT?

I THINK I DO. I'M TRYING TO.

IF YOU DO THEN YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING.

JUST SLEEP ALREADY.

IS THE SESSION NOT OVER YET...?

BY THE WAY,

I'M PLANNING TO BRING THIS PLAN AND ASK THOSE TWO TO JOIN US.

SEE, YOU SHOULD BE CONFESSING TO HER AFTER THE GRADUATION CEREMONY AFTER ALL.

KATOU, DO YOU NOT REGRET ANYTHING YOU DID TODAY?

SHE'S GRADU-ATING AFTER ALL...

I THINK ERIRI WILL BE OKAY WITH IT,

BUT I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR KASUMIGAOKA-SENPAI.

WELL, THE BIGGEST HURDLE WAS GETTING YOU TO JOIN THE CIRCLE, ACTUALLY...

THERE'S A LOT OF DIFFICULT PROBLEMS TO TACKLE... WILL YOU DO, AKI-KUN?

HYOUDOU-SAN IS ALSO A THIRD YEAR, SO SHE'LL BE BUSY WITH ENTRANCE EXAMS AND OTHER THINGS.

?

OH, RIGHT.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT. YOU HAVE TO WORK YOUR HARDEST TO KEEP EVERYONE IN THE CIRCLE.

Y-YES...

I BOUGHT THIS CHOCOLATE AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE BEFORE.

HERE, AKI-KUN.

HEY, AKI-KUN.

HM?

FORGET ABOUT THE ME FROM TODAY, OKAY?

ALL RIGHT.

YOUR STRAIGHT, FAST REPLY MAKES IT UNBELIEVABLE.

JUST TRUST ME.

IT'S JUST GIRI CHOCOLATE, BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO GIVE YOU ONE.

THANK YOU.

*GIRI CHOCO: OBLIGATION CHOCOLATE

IT'S STILL UNBELIEV-ABLE.

OF COURSE I WON'T FORGET.

THE SPELL WILL LIFT TOMORROW, AND KATOU WILL BACK TO HER FLAT SELF.

BUT I WILL NOT FORGET THIS TROUBLESOME KATOU FROM TODAY.

THIS MEMORY WILL BECOME A FUN,

AND VERY MOE OF A SCENARIO.

EMBARASSING,